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2 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

8

9 Joseph P. Mills,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 **ORDER**

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14 Commissioner of Social Security  
Administration,

Defendant.

15 At issue is the denial of *pro se* Plaintiff Joseph P. Mills's Applications for  
16 Disability Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income by the Social Security  
17 Administration ("SSA") under the Social Security Act ("the Act"). Plaintiff filed a  
18 Complaint (Doc. 1) with this Court seeking judicial review of that denial, and the Court  
19 now addresses Plaintiff's Opening Brief (Doc. 13, "Pl.'s Br."), Defendant SSA  
20 Commissioner's Opposition (Doc. 21, "Def.'s Br."), and Plaintiff's Reply (Doc. 24,  
21 "Reply"). The Court has reviewed the briefs and Administrative Record (Doc. 9, R.) and  
22 now remands this case for further proceedings, as requested by Defendant in its  
23 responsive brief (Def.'s Br. at 3).

24 Plaintiff filed his Applications on March 23, 2012, for a period of disability  
25 beginning October 1, 2011. (R. at 16.) Plaintiff's claim was denied initially on June 13,  
26 2012 (R. at 95-101) and on reconsideration on February 6, 2013 (R. at 102-31). Plaintiff  
27 then testified at a hearing held before an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") on May 12,  
28 2014. (R. at 32-94.) On September 10, 2014, the ALJ denied Plaintiff's Applications.

1 (R. at 16-24.) On November 17, 2015, the Appeals Council upheld the ALJ's decision  
2 (R. at 7-9), and, on December 10, 2015, the Appeals Council upheld the ALJ's decision  
3 again, after considering additional information provided by Plaintiff (R. at 1-4). The  
4 present appeal followed.

5 Both sides now ask the Court to remand this matter—Plaintiff, for a calculation of  
6 benefits, and Defendant, for further proceedings. In its response brief, Defendant moves  
7 for remand pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) (Def.'s Br. at 3). The  
8 Commissioner states that the SSA has determined that this case should be remanded to  
9 the ALJ with instructions to perform further action needed to complete the record,  
10 specifically, with regard to determining whether Plaintiff's impairment or combination of  
11 impairments meets or medically equals the standard for statutory blindness. 42 U.S.C.  
12 §§ 416(i)(1)(B), 1382c(a)(2); Appendix 1 to Subpart P of 20 C.F.R. Part 404,  
13 §§ 2.00(A)(6)(c), 2.03; 20 C.F.R. §§1581, 416.981.

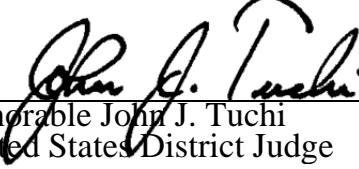
14 The ALJ's opinion and the record reveal that Dr. Mathew Sullivan conducted a  
15 neurological consultative evaluation that identified discrepancies in the medical findings  
16 regarding Plaintiff's visual field loss. (R. at 22, 562.) The Court thus agrees with  
17 Defendant that the record is not complete, and, contrary to Plaintiff's argument, the  
18 evidence the ALJ did consider is not sufficient to mandate a finding that Plaintiff is  
19 disabled. *See Treichler v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec. Admin.*, 775 F.3d 1090, 1101-103 (9th Cir.  
20 2014). Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), the Court will remand to the SSA for further  
21 proceedings, namely, to: (1) hold a *de novo* hearing; (2) obtain a neurological  
22 consultative examination pursuant to Dr. Sullivan's recommendation; (3) re-evaluate  
23 Listing 2.03A; and (4) continue with the sequential disability evaluation process and  
24 issue a new decision.

25 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this case is remanded to the Commissioner  
26 of the Social Security Administration for further proceedings consistent with this Order.  
27 The Administrative Law Judge shall perform any further action needed to complete the  
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1 record, including that noted above, shall conduct a *de novo* hearing, and shall issue a new  
2 decision.

3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk is directed to enter final judgment  
4 consistent with this Order and close this case.

5 Dated this 26th day of September, 2017.

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8 Honorable John J. Tuchi  
9 United States District Judge  
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